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MINDEN ONTARIO

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Locals recognized with King Charles III Medal

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's been a big week in Minden, with some familiar faces being honoured with the presentation of the King Charles III Coronation Medal by Jamie Schmale, Haliburton's Member of Parliament.

The medal was created to mark the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6, 2023. It recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to a particular province, territory, region, or community in Canada, or attained an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to our country.

The fun part about the awards is that they are unbeknownst to the recipients. "It was a surprise!" laughed Fay Martin, one of the winners. "Took a long time for me to put together why this particular gathering was gathering."

On top of Martin, four other Minden locals were recognized: Lynda Litwin, Richard Schell, Reverend Canon Joan Cavanagh-Clark, and Keith Stata of Kinmount. "Haliburton County is a much better place because of the amazing efforts of the thousands of people volunteering their time each and every day," said Schmale, upon delivery of the medals.

At the surprise ceremony at the Minden Legion last week, Litwin was recognized for her decades of volunteerism, including her time as the Minden Rotary Club President (twice), and her tireless work with planning signature local events such as Canada Day, RotaryFest, and multiple golf tournaments. "It's been said that Lynda volunteers for everything, contributes to everything, participates in everything and never seems to get

tired," said Schmale.

Schell was acknowledged for his many years of volunteer service to the community. He has been a key figure in representing Minden Hills since the 1960s, including through his involvement with the Rotary Club, the Minden Kinsmen Club, and the Masonic Lodge. Schell spent 46 years with the OPP as an auxiliary member, ten years with the Minden Community Food Centre, and ten years as the Sergeant-At-Arms at the Minden Legion. He has also helped coordinate Minden's Terry Fox Run for decades, and has a working-relationship with Santa Claus during the annual holiday parades. He continues to be an active member at his local church, as well as the township's cemetery board.

Fay Martin moved to the area in 1997, and hasn't slowed down since. She was a founding director for Point in Time, and the creator of Places for People in 2007. The not-for-profit focuses on creating affordable and accessible housing for those in need across the region. Housing is one of the major fuels to her fire, as she sits on the board of directors for the Kawartha Lakes - Haliburton Housing Corporation, and founded the Minden Hills Housing Task Force, which still meets today. Martin sits as the current director of the local branch of Habitat for Humanity, and is a regular contributor to the *Minden Times* with her column *Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder*.

Reverend Canon Joan Cavanagh-Clark was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal at St. Paul's Anglican Church. After arriving in Minden just over ten years ago, she has become a familiar face to the local community.

She and her team started the thrift shop by see **VOLUNTEERS** page 2



Out for a dip

Cameron Ferguson of Haliburton Forest takes a break in the ice during a training session through Access Rescue Canada on March 3. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TEGAN LEGGE special to the *Times*




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It was a full house at the Minden Legion last week to watch local recipients be given the King Charles III Medal for their contributions to the community.



Pictured, from left, MP Jamie Schmale with Reverend Joan, Fay Martin, Richard Schell, and Lynda Litwin following the ceremony. /photos submitted

Volunteers make Minden vibrant

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from page 1

the Church on Invergordon Avenue, which has nearly doubled in size due to demand and need from locals. All of the proceeds from the shop are either donated back into the community, or given to a school they support in Uganda. This year, they raised nearly \$30,000 for those in need.

Reverend Joan works diligently with local firefighters, police, mental health professionals, and the EMS to ensure that those navigating any form of crisis are appropriately fed, sheltered, and clothed.

Her efforts are seen, felt, and heard all throughout the year, but they truly shine at Christmas, when she works with a dedicated team to host a Christmas Kids Sale, so that the local youth can access gifts for their friends and family at a maximum price of 50 cents.

Keith “The Movie Man” Stata was also amongst this year’s recipients of the medal. While Stata tends to maintain a quiet lifestyle, he is known by thousands for his efforts put into

Highlands Cinema in Kinmount.

The theatre has five screening rooms, and is filled with movie memorabilia, making a trip to the theatre just as exciting as the movie itself.

As a long-time projectionist, Stata’s life was told in the recent film, *The Movie Man*, which captured the character on the big screen, and the magic he has put into the now world-renowned destination.

From May to Thanksgiving, Stata expects to welcome 50,000 moviegoers into his home - the Highlands Cinema, which can seat around 550 people. An impressive number considering Kinmount has a population of around 300 people. The cinema is one of the few remaining independent theatres in the Canada, thanks to the whimsical passion brought to the forefront by Stata

In total, 30,000 King Charles III Coronation medals are scheduled to be given out across the country, and Schmale noted that with a population of 122,401 in his riding, he received over 100 applications. In total, there are 30 medals to distribute across the area.

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Lynda Litwin of Minden receiving the King Charles Medal from MP Jamie Schmale. /photo submitted

MP Jamie Schmale with Richard Schell of Minden during the ceremony at the Minden Legion.



MP Jamie Schmale awarding Reverend Joan with the King Charles Medal. /photos submitted



MP Jamie Schmale and Fay Martin with her King Charles Medal for volunteer work around affordable housing.

Keith Stata of Kinmount was given the King Charles Medal for his contribution to the vibrancy of the community.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

March 13 – Regular Council Meeting

March 27 – Regular Council Meeting

April 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Student Art Exhibit – *The Land Between*, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 15. Artists from Grades 1 to 8 created over 100 pieces that are included in the exhibition.

• Nature's Place will be open daily for March Break Drop-in Programs, March 10 - 14 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Explore different themes each day through hands-on activities and exhibits! Suitable for ages 5+.

• *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display from March 20 - May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Join us for the opening reception with the artists on Saturday, March 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca deadline extended to March 14, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.minden hills.ca/newsroom.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: REDEVELOPMENT OF LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Township of Minden Hills is seeking partners for the re-development of the Community Centre (4713 Gelert Road, Lochlin) and is requesting Expressions of Interest. The redevelopment plans must meet a broad community need and include a gathering space to serve the neighbouring communities. All replies to or questions about this notice should be submitted by emailing Wendelin Lonergan, Director of Finance, at wlonergan@mindenhills.ca. For complete details and proposal requirements, please visit www.minden hills.ca/newsroom. **Deadline for submission:** March 24, 2025, by 12:00 noon.

Recreation planning becomes unwieldy in AH

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Winter travel in bad weather has been an obstacle for having a single Algonquin Highlands-wide cultural and recreation committee.

That seems to be particularly the case for committee members from Oxtongue Lake and Stanhope. Township council discussed during its March 6 meeting how the committee might move forward.

One of the options is to possibly return to a previous three-community committee set-up. Mayor Liz Danielsen said the intent of uniting into a single committee was to unify Algonquin Highlands as a whole community.

"And bring us together," she said. "And obviously that goal has not worked in this particular regard."

Danielsen said Oxtongue Lake committee members need to consider whether it's appropriate to establish their own group and what agreements would be required to accommodate that.

That would lead to considering a return to three committees. Maybe a separate group could represent Stanhope and Dorset together.

"I also recognize that, for some reason or other, despite the populations Stanhope has not always been strong when it came to their own recreation committee," she said.

Partnerships with various groups such as lake associations for specific activities might also be an effective avenue to govern recreation initiatives in the township.

"I have had conversations with several lake

associations who are having the same challenges that we are in finding volunteers to run their own events," Danielsen said.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation, and trails manager, said he's been involved with all three committees and there is much to consider. He and Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux discussed the possibility of a volunteer board or committee operate the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre.

"I'd be interested to hear if there's any updates on that," Card said. "I think that our thoughts around moving from three committee to one aligned with what we wanted to do as far as having a united feel to recreation within the township."

"It was disappointing really, I guess, just to see that hadn't worked out as we had hoped."

A common thread through each group of the previous three-committee setup was a lack of clear direction of what was hoped to be achieved, he said.

"Certainly there was a lot of great success in events," he said. "A lot of great success in programs that they run. A lot of fantastic volunteers which we know is dwindling and continues to do so."

Card said it's important for township council to nail down what the desire is for recreation in Algonquin Highlands. A recreation master plan that will soon be undertaken will describe much of the hopes for recreational pursuits.

"Do we want 10 per cent more recreation per capita?" Card said. "Do we want an equal number of recreational program opportunities per capita within each community?"

And then there's setting the bar of the number of volunteers required and what the per-

“

It seems like the whole philosophy for volunteerism is becoming outdated as the older generation can no longer help.

—LIZ DANIELSEN, AH MAYOR

”

formance indicators are.

"Understanding what that end goal is," he said.

Councillor Julia Shortreed said there are many groups that rely on volunteers, especially in Dorset. And so many people have already dedicated much of their time to those organizations and efforts. Current volunteers may not have the time to give to a recreation committee, she said.

"The rec committee in Stanhope was, I think, I do believe, the soccer committee that got changed into the rec committee," she said. "They were all there for soccer. When we got changed into the rec committee, there wasn't an interest."

In Dorset, the pool of volunteers is shallow. "Because people have already committed to so many other groups," Shortreed said.

She said there's another issue with a dearth of young people on various committees.

"We definitely need young people as well," Shortreed said.

"And how to encourage that is a challenge," Danielsen said. "It seems like the whole philosophy for volunteerism is becoming outdated as the older generation can no longer help."

The idea was broached that there may be value in separating the recreation committee into three entities.

"It's just we're so spread out here that having something like that might work really, really, well," Shortreed said.

"I see that it's inevitable that that's probably the direction that we might go," Danielsen said. "However, it does disappoint me because we want to try to unite the municipality as one municipality. This just strengthens the separation or the division that was in place before."

Coun. Lisa Barry said the last time the township had three committees working toward the same goal was during the COVID-19 pandemic when social gatherings were prohibited during lockdowns. The Dorset Recreation Centre was not available. And committees and organizations began meeting electronically online.

"Those three factors could possibly be different now," Barry said. "I think a lot of the volunteers want to help with events but don't want to sit on a committee."

There are some people, as well, who may want to participate in a committee but not go out and lend a hand during the events they helped plan.

"I do think there's an opportunity for there to be sort of an overarching rec, arts, culture group that oversees that there is a diversity in all three parts of the municipality," she said,

see FUTURE page 5

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Where: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School

For Grades 6 to 12. For more info contact haliburton@youthunlimitedkaw.com

Lenten Lunches

When: Wednesdays at noon

Where: March 12 - St. Paul's Anglican Church

March 19 - Highland Hills United Church

March 26 - St. Paul's Anglican Church

April 2 - Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

April 9 - Minden Bible Church

Service at noon followed by Soup Lunch. By Donation.

Metabolic Flexibility: Key to Healthy Aging

When: Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton

A discussion with Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, who will discuss what good metabolic health is and how to make some simple lifestyle changes that can improve our metabolic health, leading to a better quality of life. This is part of a continuing series on "Making our Communities Better Places" and will be opened with music by Brian Sachs and Peter Smith. Open to all, free, light refreshments provided. Hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton.

Support and independence:

Finding the balance

Aging Together as Community and the County of Haliburton:

When: Friday, March 21

Where: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129, Haliburton or by Zoom

Time: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Growing older brings changes, but you can stay healthy and live comfortably in your home for many years. Please join us to learn more. Register by March 18 by calling/texting Connie Wood 705-457-7215, or by email constancewood@gmail.com.

Knitting for Warmth Cupcake Tea

When: Tuesday, March 25 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. - Lower Level

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Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room.

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Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
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HOME SATURDAY MARCH 15TH - 4:00PM

AWAY SUNDAY MARCH 16TH - 2:00PM

HOME TUESDAY MARCH 18TH - 7:00PM



Tariffs in Minden: what does it mean?

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's official. As of March 4, 2025, the looming tariff threats from U.S. President Donald Trump have been put into place. Following a 30-day reprieve, the blanket tariffs on Canada and Mexico include 25 per cent on all imports, with the exception of 10 per cent on Canadian energy. The Canadian government responded with 25 per cent tariffs on \$30 billion of U.S. goods, with the intention of increasing this number in the not-so-distant future. But how does an international trade war impact our rural community? According to local businesses, we will be hit in more ways than we know. County residents may have received a

document in their mailboxes recently from Haliburton's Royal LePage real estate firm, with the title of "Grocery Guide". The list includes categories of food, with indications on which U.S. brands to avoid, and which Canadian brands to buy. While the list is not exhaustive, it provides a general outline. "We actually saw the list on social media and, like everyone else, we are angered by the recent political events and saw this as a great opportunity to somehow contribute towards helping fellow Canadians deal with it," said Nanci Hunter, the office administrator and deal secretary for Royal LePage in Haliburton. "It has been received very well as we have had some phone calls from people thanking us for the guide, as well as stopping in to the office to get a copy." Manasvi Thakur, a media contact for Sobeys grocery chains, which includes the

local Foodlands in Minden and Haliburton, shared that they are doing everything they can to support Canadian producers. "(We are) focused on protecting our customers to the greatest extent possible as our country responds to this unfortunate action by the United States," he said. Thakur went on to note that over the past year, approximately 12 per cent of the corporation's sales came from products sourced from the United States, and they have diligently spent the past 30 days seeking alternatives from other countries. "Our sourcing team is working to mitigate the potential impact of tariffs by category and by product for that relatively small portion of sales that are sourced from the U.S.," he said. While it makes sense that grocery stores offer a variety of products from other countries, some businesses don't need to shift gears all

that much. At Riverview Furniture in the heart of Minden, they have always sourced locally. "We do not agree with these tariffs in any way," said Haley Lynch, the manager of the store. "But it's not going to hurt our business, because we have always been made in Canada." Lynch shared that their store has recently seen an increase in business, with shoppers actively looking to source Canadian-made products. Riverview works with a woodshop based out of the Toronto area, and much of their furniture is produced locally. Whatever is not made in Canada, Lynch noted that they work with suppliers from Europe. "We never really carried any products from the U.S.," she said, noting that any small products they did carry were easy to part with. "Who would have ever thought we'd be at odds with the States in our lifetime," she mused.

Future uncertain for volunteer committees

from page 4

and added that sub-committees could spring from that overarching group. She's hesitant to separate the committee before recreation as a whole is considered in the township. Danielsen applauded mention of consideration for arts and culture.

"There is a wonderful arts community here in Algonquin Highlands and in the county," the mayor said. "I don't know that we pay enough attention or include that enough in our activities and in our thought processes." Dailloux said the nature of community engagement has changed and that's brought changes to local volunteerism. Card said the concept of a single recreation

committee was a great idea. "The continual challenge tends to be numbers of people," he said. "We need more people. We need more volunteers." He suggested the township move toward event-specific staff-led volunteer recruitment. Staff determines parameters of how programming is distributed across the municipality.

Even if people were to be found to populate a single committee, mustering enough volunteers to run some events will still be a challenge, he said. "I think we need to accept the fact that sometimes that committee is going to say, We need to cancel that Christmas tree lighting event; we don't have the people," Card said.

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Red, white and grey

IF DONALD Trump is involved in something, in any capacity, you can be sure that it is not remotely reasonable and will be completely convoluted; rife with grey areas and questions and completely devoid of logic.

Enter: tariffs.

I won't get into the nitty-gritty details of these newly implemented taxes. You can do your own research; the internet is teeming with information about the impacts of this decision.

But I can get into what it means to buy Canadian. Within hours of the tariffs going official, LCBOs and retailers selling alcohol stripped their shelves of anything hailing from the United States.

And left them that way.

Many were wondering why the gaping holes were not quickly replenished with locally sourced spirits, and I think it's quite simply to make a point.

When we cut ties with the United States; a decision that was not made lightly, after centuries of relative camaraderie and companionship, we were making a statement.

We can't be bullied.

And the vacant spots that stared back at us from the shelves of retailers acted as a reminder for how intrinsically interwoven our two nations were.

That's why it adds levels of complications when we are adamant about solely buying Canadian. Made in Canada? Produced in Canada? Staffed with Canadians? From Canadian soil? Using Canadian products?

What does "buy Canadian" entail?

With the exception of sap boiled and bubbled in your very own

backyard, very few things are exclusively born and raised in Canada.

And that's the nature of the world we live in now; an interconnected sense of globalization that has blurred the boundaries of countries, and had producers seeking the best bang for their buck. That's how the world works.

I completely agree with buying local wherever we can, but the nuances of the movement are cracked too large to make the process smooth sailing. Our small businesses are particularly hard hit; dependent on purchasing from the most accessible source (which is of course sometimes not Canadian) but necessary for their own livelihoods. Local, homegrown, Canadian livelihoods.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

If we boycott the businesses who perhaps cannot afford the price points of Canadian-

made goods, are we still supporting Canadian businesses? Canadian farmers? Canadian producers?

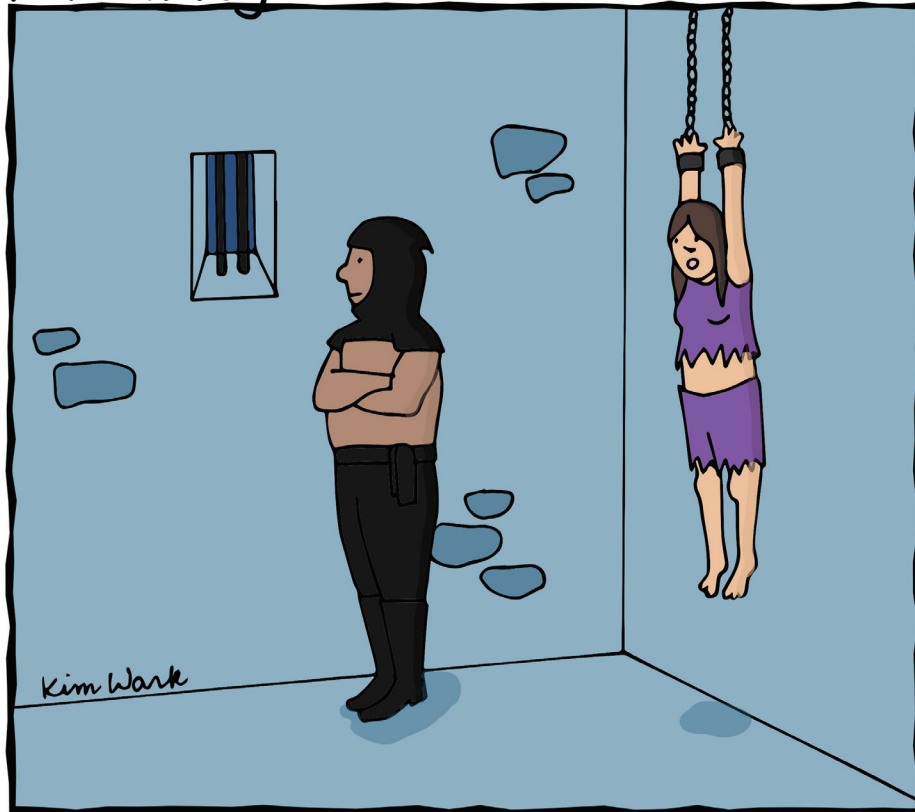
It's not just red and white. There's a whole grey area of unanswered questions and 'what if' situations that no one truly has their heads wrapped around.

I can commend many for supporting the 'buy Canadian' cause. In a world that feels like we are merely balancing on wobbly rocks across a river, it's important to hold on to things that feel stable. If this is something that feels like a difference, that feels important to you, then carry on.

But let us not forget the grey area that now flies alongside our red and white.

It's not as clear-cut as it seems.

Kwarky



*"The thirty day torture diet actually worked!
You can let me down now. Hellooooo?"*

Never say it

IHAVE BEEN hunting and fishing for almost 50 years now, and if I have learned anything in all that time, it is these two things: Never say never. And never tell your spouse the real price of that shotgun or fancy fishing rod.

The second statement is self-explanatory and one of those things that old people will secretly tell you when you declare, "My goodness! You were married for 60 years! What is the secret to such a long and happy marriage?"

The first one? Well, perhaps I should explain further.

What it means is that you should never utter aloud sentences like, "I have never missed a deer." Or "I have never been skunked on this lake." Or "I have never had a bad hunt in this duck blind."

For the minute you do, you are inviting these things to happen.

My latest example of this occurred a couple of springs ago with a friend who decided to take me to his secret brook trout creek. Things were going just fine. Morale was high. But then, midway there, he went and said it. "You know," he muttered, "I have never caught anything less than a limit at this creek."

As soon as he said that I felt like saying, "Stop the truck. Turn around. Let's find a place to eat breakfast and then go home."

For I knew that the fix was in.

It turned out I was right too. I caught a single brook trout that morning and my friend got skunked. Throughout the entire drive home, he was still shaking his head in disbelief. And he does so every time a recollection of that day comes up.

Of course, he should have known this was going to happen. After all, he is at least as experienced as me.

Heck, he even acknowledged this on the way home.

"I guess I was asking for it wasn't I?" he shrugged.

"Yup," I said.

We were both reminded of a valuable lesson on that outing, which is why I am passing it along to all you younger anglers and hunters. When it comes to fishing and hunting, the universe does not like cockiness.

Strange as it is to say, this is a good thing. I mean, what fun would fishing and hunting be, if every time you went on an outing the results were a limit of large fish and game? OK, it would be great. A whole lot of fun in fact. But that's not the point.

The point is that's not what it's like. In the real world, hunting and fishing is unpredictable or, at the very least, contrary.

It is also uncooperative and mean-spirited, which is why we use the phrase "Beginner's luck" way too often.

In any case, the sooner you understand this and not taunt fate, the better for everyone involved. That's the lesson here. Learn it. Especially, if you plan on taking a friend out to your favourite brook trout stream or duck blind.

That's all I have to say on the matter, I suppose. It's a simple, straight forward message about an immutable law of nature in fact. There's no way around it.

By the way, have I told you I have never caught a world-class brook trout? Or that I have never harvested a 12-point buck?

Never.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Understanding and forgiving

AS CIRCUMSTANCES seem on the cusp of harder times, at least for some of us – maybe most of us – we should reconsider our stance on the question of free will and culpability.

There's a lot of prattle about holding people 'accountable', but the conversation gets confused because it's never crystal clear who is responsible for what. When things go wrong, the finger of blame gyroscopes. (When things go right, a choir of cherubs is apt to show up, but that's another story.) Things seldom go wrong in one fell swoop: it's usually a long and frequently invisible process, and it's often not clear what stage of development the problem is at when it becomes apparent. Should we consider a problematic behaviour a symptom of something awry upstream, a snapshot

in time, or an indication of worse trouble to come?

Never a simple question. In earlier days, we made it simple by attributing it to God or luck or fate. But in the early 19th century, thinkers like Bertrand Russel began to consider that as we knew more about science, we had to admit that there were forces that influenced behaviour. Acknowledging this, he still confirmed that people should be held accountable for their behaviour. Understand, yes; forgive, no.



FAY MARTIN

Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

In 1957 when *West Side Story* hit the stage, it struggled with how the youngsters should be understood and therefore dealt with. Gee, Officer Krupke pretty much summarizes the free-will arguments of the day, and therefore the assignment of culpability. Did the kids who'd landed involuntarily in malfunctioning families – no choice on their part – need a shrink, a social worker, a decent job, or a year in the Pen?

Current debates about involuntary treatment for drug addicts, and enforced destruction of encampments suggests we're still struggling with precisely that question.

Robert Sapolsky, a Stanford University neuroendocrinologist, very contentiously updated the argument with his book *Determined: a Science of Life and Free Will* published by Penguin Random House in 2023. (Bob McDonald interviewed him on *Quirks and Quarks* Nov 10/23.) He comes at the question from the perspective of 'justice', how we hold people accountable for illegal actions. The legal argument must prove a misbehaving person is 'responsible' by showing they 1) had intent, 2) knew the consequences of their actions and 3) thought they had options. Sapolsky says this snapshot process is as illogical as judging a movie from its last three minutes. Because, he says, 'intent comes from ... every single thing in that person's past over which they have no control that made them who they were at the moment they intended to do that'. He traces causation, based on what we now know about physiology and chemistry and genetics and intergenerational transmission, back to basically the beginning of humanity. He says that knowing what we know now, given the exponential increase of scientific knowledge, we need to revisit our ethical and moral metrics.

His book caused widespread gasps and pearl-clutching among, one might presume, the relatively privileged (the under-privileged were probably otherwise occupied and not paying attention to the furor) and a full-frontal attack on the irresponsibility of saying humans had no free will.

But his point, to my ears, was that we, the people who think we have some influence over how the world operates, have to be responsible for what we have or have not done to change circumstances that we know create bad behaviour. Poverty. Ecological devastation. Starvation. Fear of imminent death. Hopelessness. Cruelty.

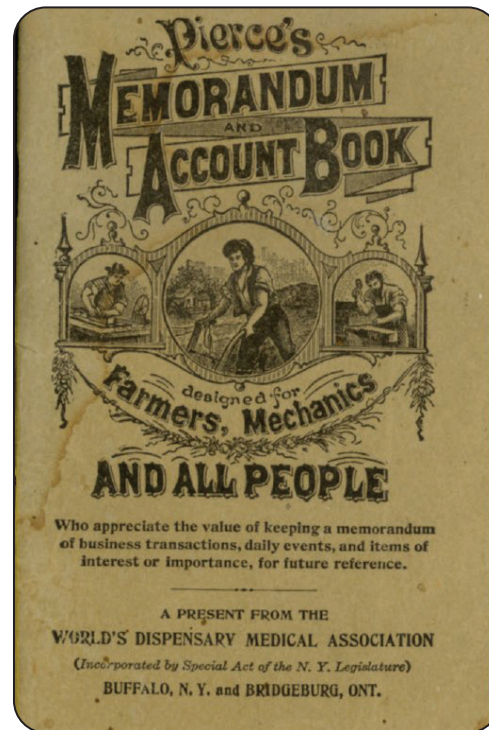
Oliver Burkeman, in an article in *The Guardian* in Oct. 24, 2023, agrees. He says that Sapolsky (who looks like Moses, and Burkeman describes his style as that of a 'hugely knowledgeable yet stoned west coast slacker') nevertheless ends up making the case for 'profound forgiveness and understanding ... a There but for the grace of God go I' stance.

Burkeman doesn't get to what I heard on the *Quirks and Quarks* interview. I heard a call to action. A reprimand for not doing what we know we should do to make the world a better place. It resonates strongly with (my guru) Senator Landon Pearson's definition of useful action as changing the circumstances so that alternate options become evident.

We are sliding into what promises to be tough times and knowing what we do about the relationship between poverty and 'misbehavior', drug addiction and homelessness may become even more prevalent. The circumstances will require new choices by all of us: e.g., individuals should 'Buy Canadian', provinces should reduce barriers to interprovincial trade, leaders of all ilk should put national wellbeing above personal interest.

The circumstances will also require each of us to revisit the connection we make between understanding and forgiving. Deciding where in the developmental process the problem of the moment is at, which then defines free will and culpability, seems to me a very good place to start.

Minden Memories



A 32-page memo and account book published as an advertising tool by the World's Dispensary Medical Association. This organization, based in Buffalo, New York, was known for producing publications like the *Ladies' Note Book and Calendar* to promote their medical products and services in the early 1900s. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

OPP looking for distracted drivers in the region

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will be out this week looking for people who are distracted while they are driving.

Distracted driving is when a driver is not concentrating on the road, instead their attention is drawn to devices such as cell phones and other electronic devices. The only time a driver can engage with their phone would be to see directions from a GPS or talking handsfree. At no time should a driver be watching videos, texting, programming GPS, or talking with their phone on speaker while holding the phone. If a phone is being used for GPS or utilizing handsfree, it must be mounted to the dash and drivers must pull over to program the GPS.

Distracted driving led to multiple serious collisions in the area in 2024.

If people are not adhering to the distracted driving rules of the road, here are some of the fines that will be associated:

- \$615 dollar fine if settled out of court (if you go to court and are found guilty there is up to

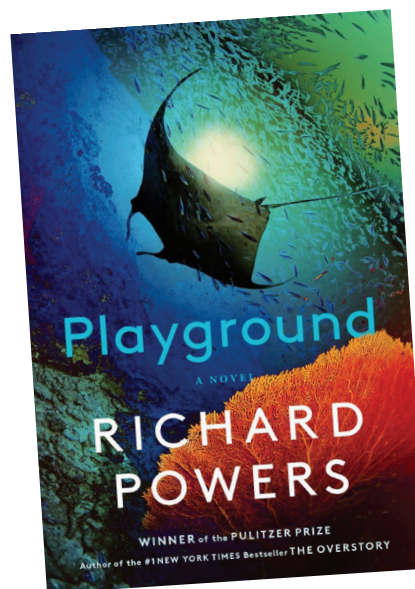
\$1000 dollar fine), three demerit points, and a three-day suspension for first offences. For second offenses up to \$2000, six-demerit points, and a seven-day suspension. A third conviction could give you up to a \$3000 fine, six-demerit points, and a 30-day suspension.

- If you are a G1, M1, G2, or M2 license holder you will face the same fines as above, however suspensions are harsher. With a first conviction you would receive a 30-day suspension, the second conviction will be a 90-day suspension, and if you are convicted a third time your license will be cancelled.

Drivers are reminded to either shut their phones off, have a passenger help, or pull over if the matter is urgent. If pulling over, you must be off the roadway, not disrupting traffic, and your vehicle must be parked.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week



When two brilliant misfits bond at an elite Chicago private school—one a white legacy kid named Todd Keane and the other, Rafi Young, a Black scholarship student from the South Side—their friendship seems as boundary-breaking and limitless as the 3,000-year-old board game that brings them together. Until a betrayal launches them on radically different paths. As adults, they reunite on the Polynesian island of Makatea, where a corporate project for floating, autonomous cities promises humanity's next frontier. Traversing borders and oceans, *Playground* brings to light the systems of competition, cooperation, exploration and love that tie the fates of unlikely humans together.

Playground by Richard Powers is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Minden Skating Club celebrates 75 years

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Minden has a rich and vibrant history when it comes to local sports, and over the years, one of the most pronounced activities in the region has been skating.

That's why, when it came to the attention of Jane Symons, the head coach for the Minden Skating Club, that the organization would be celebrating 75 years of successes in the community, she knew it was time to "go big."

"I was totally caught off guard when a grandparent asked me 'what is the Minden Club doing to celebrate its 75th birthday?'" Symons said. "I hadn't even paid attention... how did I miss that? And wow, I've been here for over half of that time."

The retired hydro worker moved up to Minden in 1981, but has been skating for over 60 years. "With skating, you form skills both on the ice, and off," she said. "I feel like I am helping to shape our youth. I live vicariously through them. And for me, it's all about seeing them succeed."

The Club was originally formed in 1948, but it was not until 1950 that it became active under the sanction of the Canadian Figure Skating Association, now known as Skate Canada.

While figure skating has been their focus, the Club also offers CanSkate programs, to learn the basic foundational skills for anyone learning to skate. The sessions include components of speed and flexibility, edges, turns, skill progressions, and repetition.

see OLYMPIAN page 9



Minden Skating Club's Melanie Walter, who represented her club and the community with pride at the 2022 Skate Ontario Provincial Championships in Mississauga. Walter was one of the many successful skaters who have competed over the 75 years the Club has been in existence. /FILE

Support and Independence

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A blast from the past. the 1990s Minden Skating Club participants pose for a photo following their final spring performance of that year. /photo submitted

Olympian Kurt Browning returns to Minden

from page 8

Symons noted that a young Matt Duchene and Cody Hodgson both started in the CanSkate program, before going on to play in the National Hockey League many years later.

Once kids move past the CanSkate level, they are then headed towards STARskate, which stands for Skills, Test, Achievement, and Recognition in the sport. They can go on to compete all over the province and beyond, and Minden's Club has racked up many medals over the years for their efforts and enthusiasm.

In light of their 75th year, Symons says she was committed to making this season's end of year show something that's a little extra exciting. "I immediately came home and contacted Kurt Browning to see if he would celebrate with us as a performer," she said.

Browning has competed in three different Olympics, and has won both the Canadian Championships and the World

Championships in figure skating four times each. In 2015, after Stars on Ice prepared their show locally, Browning stayed in the area and worked with the Minden Skating Club for a few special practices. Symons kept in touch with the world-class athlete, and said he was "happy to oblige" when she posed the question of asking him to return.

He also requested to loop in some other all-stars for the ride: Josee Chouinard and Jean Michel Bombardier, and their daughter, Fiona Bombardier, who placed third in Canadian Nationals in 2023. Fiona has recently partnered with award-winning skater Ben Mimar, and just recently participated in this year's Nationals, leaving with a fourth place win.

The duo will be joining Browning on the ice in Minden at the end of the month. "Fiona and Ben both love to perform," said Symons, "and are excited to be able to skate in the same show as Kurt Browning."

On March 23, the Minden Skating Club will be welcoming viewers to two shows: titled *Minden on Ice - A Disney*

Dreamland. The shows will feature the many participants involved with the Club; both in a recreational and competitive manner, with the Minden Skating Club, as well as the special guests who will be showcasing their wealth of talent.

Symons hopes this will be a special way to honour 75 momentous years of the Minden Skating Club, and celebrate the many people who have been involved in the organization over the years. She noted that it's not just the skaters who keep the organization afloat. "The parents have been absolutely instrumental on the executive," she said, sharing that many helped with costumes, coordination, and competitions.

Practices for *Minden on Ice - A Disney Dreamland* are well underway, and Symons is thrilled with how it's all coming together, hoping the community will come out to support the skaters on the big day. "It's been so fun to watch it all blossom," she said. "It really is so rewarding to watch them thrive."



Left, the winners of the Minden Skating Club earning the team title for the Kawartha Highlands Twelfth Annual Inter Club competition. Above, Annika Gervais practices on the ice in Minden.

Dorset’s Broen Thompson sets World Record

by THOMAS SMITH
Times Staff

On a busy summer day in 2017, 10-year old Broen Thompson was offered a free bagel in exchange for folding some pizza boxes for Pizza on Earth in Dorset.

That must be where it all started, jokes Thompson.

A first year genetics student at the University of Toronto, Thompson first began working at Pizza on Earth two summers ago.

“[Dorset] has always been a part of my life,” said Thompson.

Staying at the family’s cottage on Kawagama Lake in Minden Bay, Thompson’s dream was to spend his summers in nature and be able to gain ‘dad stories;’ fun stories that he can share with others when he gets older.

After having worked as a ski attendant in Barrie, Pizza on Earth was Thompson’s first introduction to the world of pizza.

“It requires a lot of skill,” said Thompson. “When it gets busy, you are dealing with hundreds of customers per day.”

In addition to taking orders, Thompson says that he had a variety of duties at Pizza on Earth including taking orders, cleaning, making pizzas, and folding pizza boxes.

At Pizza on Earth’s backroom, the staff put up a sheet to record their fastest time to fold 50 pizza boxes.

Thompson says that he remembers the fastest record on the sheet was eight minutes and he thought, “That’s my goal. I can beat that.”

Thompson began practicing folding 50 boxes at a time. The total time it took him began to shrink. Six minutes, then five, then



Broen Thompson, a cottager from the Dorset area, spins pizza dough in the air at Pizza on Earth. Thompson currently holds the Guinness World Record for the fastest pizza box folding in the world. /photo submitted

four. Soon enough, Graham Johnson, son of Pizza on Earth’s owner Elizabeth Johnson, became involved in a friendly competition with Thompson. Chasing each other’s records, Thompson says that he eventually managed to surpass Johnson’s time.

After dominating the in-house record, Thompson began to research the Guinness

World Record.

The previous world record for fastest time to fold 50 pizza boxes was held by Nicola Matarazzo, from Italy, with a time of three minutes and 54.20 seconds.

With a goal in sight, Thompson began to perfect his pizza box folding technique. Things such as the height of the table, and

precise movements were practiced and perfected. One breakthrough for Thompson was realizing that nowhere in the record rules specified that the boxes had to stay on the table. Instead of neatly stacking the boxes, Thompson pushed them away to the side, saving valuable seconds.

“Cardboard cuts are worse than paper,” says Thompson.

On June 25 of this past year, with seven people assisting with filming and verifying the world record attempt, Thompson successfully beat the world record to fold 50 pizza boxes. His record time was three minutes and 47.82 seconds. The record was finally confirmed in October.

“I am the type of person where if you give me a challenge or a thing to beat,” said Thompson. “I am going to beat it.”

Thompson says that proper technique and sheer willpower helped push him past the world record. He also says that the support of the Johnson family and their encouragement to experiment let him accomplish the record feat.

“It’s pretty random but it’s really fun to talk about,” said Thompson.

In October of 2024, the Johnsons brought Thompson to the Canadian Pizza Summit held in Toronto. At the Pizza Summit, Thompson won the Great Pizza Box Fold-Off, folding 10 pizza boxes in 46.2 seconds and earning a mention in December’s issue of *Canadian Pizza*.

Thompson has confirmed with the Johnsons that he will be returning to Pizza on Earth this summer, but his future as a pizza slinger remains uncertain.

“It’s nothing more than a fun story,” said Thompson with a laugh.

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Succession planning; open communications a need

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's something we all need to think about: what's next?

For the many small businesses that make this town tick, the future is uncertain while many founders and owners reach retirement age.

That's why Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) will be offering a succession planning workshop on March 19 at the Link. "You never know what can happen," said Elisha Barlow, the program and operations coordinator at HCDC. "You can never start planning too early for your business."

HCDC hosted their first succession plan-

ning session in 2023, and Barlow noted that it was very well attended. "We touched on quite a few things," she said, sharing that they had addressed how to speak with staff about succession planning, questions about real estate, life insurance, and employee opportunities to name a few.

"It's all about ensuring appropriate communications with your team," said Barlow. Sometimes, this can be the hardest part about letting go. She noted that many local businesses are run by families, so the topic of succession can sometimes be a hard pill to swallow when the family dynamics are brought into play. "Our messaging is about trying to find ways to be as open as possible about the plan with their employees," said Barlow.

She noted a big need for the planning

workshops at this stage in the community's economy. "Many family businesses are now in their third generation of ownership," she said. "It's one thing when it's passed down to kids, but sometimes things get a little confusing the further down the line they go."

The session aims to provide support and communication tools for those looking to explore succession in their businesses.

But it's not just family businesses. The workshop will also address people looking to sell their businesses, and all the logistics that need to be in place for that move. Some of the speakers and partners for the evening include accountants, lawyers, and people involved in business planning.

While the evening aims to discuss sole proprietors and family businesses, Barlow

noted that there is a need for a second session that focuses on not-for-profits. "That's something we have heard a lot," she said. "A lot of boards and volunteer organizations are concerned about what's next for them, and that's a conversation we need to have as a community." Barlow said plans are in the works for this dialogue to happen in the not-so-distant future.

The business succession planning workshop is set for March 19 from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Link. There will be time for questions, panels, and networking opportunities. "You've put your heart and soul and money into your business," said Barlow, "you don't want it to end with you."

Ice ice baby

Twelve staff members from Haliburton Forest recently jumped into training with two feet ... literally. The ice safety seminar, provided by Access Rescue Canada, offered a wealth skills and knowledge around working on ice safely. With hundreds of kilometres of trails throughout Haliburton Forest, the staff recognize the importance of safety, risk aversion, and proper emergency protocols.

/Photos by Tegan Legge, special to the Times



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U-Links; bringing local topics to the surface

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The U-Links Centre for Community-based Research will give the public a look into some of its latest research endeavours.

The facility will host its annual Celebration of Research on March 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fleming College's Haliburton campus.

A light lunch and refreshments will be served during the free, open event. People are asked to register in advance to best provide an idea of the number of attendees for planning purposes.

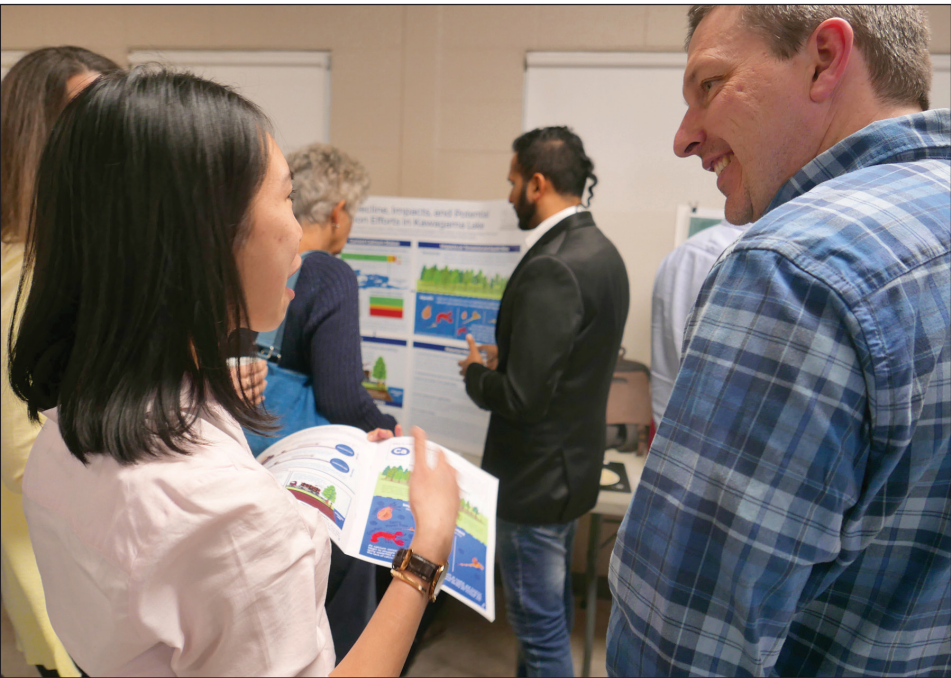
Registration is available at ulinks.ca at Celebration of Research RSVP portal's Reserve a Spot page on the right-hand side of your screen. Additional information can be obtained by emailing admin@ulinks.ca.

Last year, more 170 people were in attendance.

"Please come, enjoy, get informed and put your tough questions to the students. This is going to be a super day, and I know the students will really appreciate the support of the local community," said Andy Gordon, the centre's director.

For more than 25 years, U-Links has been operating in Haliburton County for the benefit of citizens, businesses, organizations, and local government. U-Links works in the cultural, social, business, and environmental sectors to solve problems and research questions brought forward by the community.

This is done by engaging students and pro-



fessors from Trent University and other academic partners. The students get a great dose of experiential education while conducting their research and U-Links community partners get their questions answered or problem solved.

U-Links also operates the Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch Program (WWEW), the goal of which is to monitor the long-term health of the county's lakes and forests.

With the support of Haliburton County, many lake associations, and other groups,

the WWEW collects and analyzes biological, chemical, and water quality data on many county lakes.

Student researchers are an important component of this long-term data collection effort.

"U-Links is excited to invite you to our 2025 Celebration of Research, which highlights all of the hard work our Trent University student partners have done on research projects right here in Haliburton County," Gordon said.

"This year, we've added an exciting panel discussion on Invasive Species with a Haliburton County perspective."

Keynote Speaker Dr. Pedro Antunes, the Canada research chair tier 2 at Algoma University, and fellow panelists Kaleigh Mooney from Trent University, Eric Sager from Trent and Fleming College, and Paul MacInnes will discuss the threat of invasive species and what you can be done against them.

This year at the Celebration of Research, almost 30 student research posters will be on

display. In addition, four Trent students have been selected to give oral presentations on their research.

U-Links will be hosting their annual Celebration of Research at Haliburton School of Art and Design on March 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Each spring a Celebration of Research is held by U-Links, the students prepare posters of their work and the community is invited to hear about some of the highlights and to talk to the students about their research," said U-Links administrative and logistics coordinator, Daniela Pagliaro. The day also includes keynote speakers and presentations that are specific to the region. Those interested can register for the event at www.ulinks.ca/FILE

Ella Honey and Angus McBride will speak about light pollution on Paudash Lake. Tully Privett will present on radio statistics from Canoe FM. Jacob Wyonch will do a deep dive on the prevalence of microplastics in Haliburton County lakes.

Shelley Fellows, a project host, said she has experienced giant smiles, over the top enthusiasm, and incredible knowledge through the U-Links Centre.

"Even when ankle deep in mud, hanging over the side of a boat gathering water samples or elbow deep in plants, scooping up pollinator insects," said Fellows, who is also involved with the Haliburton County Master Gardeners and the Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association.

She said U-Links research has added depth to master gardener projects and has informed the Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association with excellent water quality monitoring programs.

"With high quality research reports and a library of relevant and useful past project material, U-Links is a community resource that I value very highly and greatly appreciate," she said.

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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15



Wanted: Minden Rotary

Minden Rotary enjoyed a tour of the local OPP detachment with Sergeant Martin Tomaszewski last week, leading the members through the various departments, including one of the jail cells. Sgt. Tomaszewski patiently answered all questions and told Rotary about the current policing needs in the community. Domestic abuse, homelessness and mental health calls are the top issues that the local OPP handle "We are so fortunate to have experienced and talented officers serving our county," said Rotarian Lynda Litwin. The community room at the OPP station is available to local service clubs and organizations to use for a meeting space. /photo submitted

Bursary available for local women seeking education

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton Education Awards Committee welcomes applications for 2025 Hazel Education Bursary.

The Hazel Education Bursary is intended to help women who have experienced gender-based violence reach their goals through education or training.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton Board of Directors, through the Education Awards Committee, and with the generosity of donors in our community, offers bursaries between \$1,500 and \$2,500 to women who:

- have experienced barriers related to the impact of violence and abuse;
- have a dream to strengthen their economic security;
- are a resident of Peterborough or Haliburton County;
- seek to further their formal or informal education, or develop skills.

Hazel's Legacy

Since 1998, the YWCA has honoured Hazel's vision of helping women pursue their dreams and overcoming barriers related to their experiences of violence and abuse. Hazel was a consumer, advisor, and volunteer of several community services. Hazel passed away in 1996, after a long struggle with breast cancer. Soon afterwards an education fund was created by friends and admirers to honour this very special woman.

Applications Due: May 1, 2025

To learn more about YWCA Hazel Education Bursary, or to apply, please visit www.ywcapeterborough.org/get-help/education/ or contact Emily Jensen, Executive Assistant at 705-743-3526 ext. 120 or ejensen@ywcapeterborough.org.

Submitted

Aging Together here to help locals in need

Aging Together as Community and the County of Haliburton invite you to our next exciting event, "Support and independence: Finding the balance."

Growing older brings changes, but you can stay healthy and live comfortably in your home for many years. Please join us to learn more.

When: Friday, March 21

Where: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129, Haliburton or by Zoom

Time: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Register by March 18 by calling or texting Connie Wood 705-457-7215, or by email constancewood@gmail.com.

Submitted

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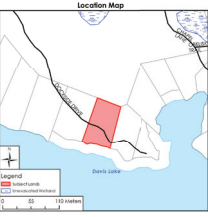
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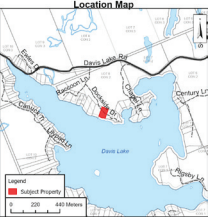
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024045:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of 1108 Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth



2. **File No. PLSRA2024047:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of parcel having roll number 4616-051-000-19000 on Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth



The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **April 11, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than **April 11, 2025**.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca



Notice of Public Meeting concerning the creation of the proposed Milburn Kendrick Conservation Reserve

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust to the Province of Ontario for the creation of the Milburn Kendrick Conservation Reserve within the County of Haliburton. A presentation will be made to County Council by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust followed by an opportunity for members of the public to address County Council regarding the proposed Conservation Reserve designation.

The meeting will be held on **March 26, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** at the **Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre, 2249 Loop Rd, Wilberforce Ontario**. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed online at: <http://haliburton.civicweb.net>. The meeting is also available via live streaming at: <https://youtube.com/live/JRz37Qz5aJY?feature=share>

Members of the public may participate in the process by registering to speak in-person at the meeting or by providing written comments. **To register to speak or provide written comments please email the County Clerk's office clerk@haliburtoncounty.ca. Requests to speak or written comments must be received no later than 12:00 noon on March 25, 2025.** Those who register to speak will have up to 5 minutes for comments during the meeting. Individuals that do not register in advance may not have the opportunity to speak. Please note that the name of the individuals registered to speak, and a copy of any written comments will form part of the public record.

Questions regarding the meeting may be directed to Gary Dyke, CAO County of Haliburton at gdyke@haliburtoncounty.ca



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com

HUSKIES PLAYOFFS

The Haliburton County Huskies kicked off their playoff season on March 8 against the St. Michaels Buzzers. In a tight game at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, the hometown team came out on top with a 4-2 win, tipped over the edge with an open-net goal at the end of the game. The Huskies will continue the best of seven series over the coming weeks. /TIM YANO staff photographer



HUSKIES PLAYOFFS



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1	8	6	4	2	5	3	9	7
7	3	2	8	6	9	4	5	1
9	4	5	1	3	7	8	6	2
2	1	9	5	7	8	6	4	3
8	7	4	3	1	6	9	2	5
5	6	3	2	9	4	1	7	8
3	9	1	7	4	2	5	8	6
4	2	8	6	5	1	7	3	9
6	5	7	9	8	3	2	1	4

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SPOTLIGHT ON INVASIVE SPECIES
March 29th, 11:30-3 pm

Keynote Speaker & Panelist:
Pedro Antunes, Ph.D, Tier 2 CRC, Algoma University

Invasive Species Panel:
Eric Sager, Ph.D, Ecological Restoration, Trent U
Kaleigh Mooney, Ecological Restoration Trent U
Paul MacInnes, Chair, C.H.A.

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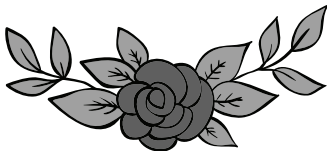
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In Loving Memory of
Elizabeth Jane Davis (nee Rivers)

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our mom, grandma and great grandma Betty on Friday March 7, 2025 in her 96th year.

Beloved wife of Moss (deceased). Loving mother of Bryan (deceased)(Jackie) and Dennis (Susan). Loving grandmother of Stephen, Corey (Michelle), Dennise (Ron), and Danny (deceased) and great grandmother of Zachary, Adam, Jacob and Moss. Predeceased by her parents Tom and Lucy Rivers and her brothers Sam, John, Joe, Gordon and Milton.

A Private Family Graveside Service and Interment to Celebrate Betty's Life will be held at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Number 1620

Minden

Monday, March 14, 1994



Eight students from Archie Stouffer Public School were in the spotlight at the Royal Canadian Legion in Minden last week for the public speaking contest. Pictured with Legion representative Lois Adamson, are the competitors. They are: front row (l to r) Becky Wallace (second, junior), Kate Heming (first, junior), Ryan White, Jacob Poirier and Shawna Ray (third, junior). Back row (l to r) Jennifer Wales (third, intermediate), Ryan Dawson (second, intermediate), Luke Lester (first, intermediate) and Lois Adamson.

Local taxpayers could be asked for \$45 each to support county government

Unless severe cuts are made, County taxpayers will see another \$45 added to their tax bills.

The Haliburton County Board of Education and County Council are each struggling to bring down their 1994 budgets under the watchful eye of the Taxpayers' Coalition.

The school board is looking at a preliminary budget that represents a 3.9 per cent increase in taxes. This increase, if approved, would mean an average increase of about \$20.

County Council opened its budget deliberations looking at a 30 per cent hike. Last week councillors pared this down to 19 per cent and then held a meeting to seek public input.

An 18.7 per cent increase in

the county levy would mean an average tax increase of about \$25.

The school board is now in the process of weighing the impact of further cuts to its budget. The board's administrative committee presented a list of possible cuts to the management committee last Tuesday, which trustees will consider before final passage of the budget.

After trimming more than 11 per cent out of its budget, county council will be hard pressed to find room for further cuts. In fact, councillors may be adding to its expenses in order to further subsidize the Chamber of Commerce.

Council has budgeted \$50,420 for the chamber, which matches last year's grant. The chamber, how-

ever, is asking for \$89,000.

At the close of last Wednesday's public meeting, the chamber made its pitch to council. Warden Jim McMahon said he was impressed with the presentation and the active manner with which the chamber has been promoting the county.

Council, however, was not prepared to immediately deal with this request for an increased grant. McMahon said it will be addressed further on March 16, prior to the final review and passage of the budget.

Education and county taxes are over and above whatever levies are set by the individual municipalities. In Minden, this increase is expected to be minimal.

Colourful candidates in Kinmount

Thursday evening in Kinmount wasn't without its colourful moments.

The all-candidates meeting featured tempers, name calling and a near expulsion.

Candidate John Tremel took offense at not being asked to respond to a question. His protests prompted moderator Clayton Cameron to order Tremel to settle down or leave. The meeting was temporarily adjourned and Cameron was about to escort the offender to the door when cooler heads prevailed. Tremel later rejoined the panel.

Brad Bradamore added some colour of a different sort, breaking up the seriousness of the occasion by interjecting some comic relief that seemed to be appreciated by the crowd. "You're lucky. I'm still young, and fresh and clean blood," he said, responding to a question from the audience. "I'll fix it for you."

Liberal candidate Sharon McCrae took the opportunity to lash out at the Tory ad campaign hinting that she and her party supports legislation that would allow spousal benefits for same-sex couples. She vehemently denied any support of such legislation.



"Young and fresh" Brad Bradamore says he'll fix the government.

See pages 2, 5 and 6 for more coverage

Council applies for infrastructure funds

The Anson, Hindon and Minden Council has agreed to apply for \$656,000 in federal assistance under the infrastructure program. The resolution endorsing the application was made at the March 10 meeting.

According to an announcement made at the time, council believes the municipal share of the funding, \$328,000 can be found, "...with little or no increase in the general mill rate." The total value of the projects being proposed under the program is \$984,000.

Among the projects approved under this plan, in the order of priority set by the council, were:

- Office expansion and retro-fit \$424,000
- River bank restoration \$170,000
- Upgrades to the sanitary sewer system and water system \$110,000
- Replace major culverts in the road system \$60,000
- Reconstruction of the Bobcaygeon Road \$200,000
- Tennis court rehabilitation \$20,000

According to the council, the impact of this work will be felt this year and continue into 1995.

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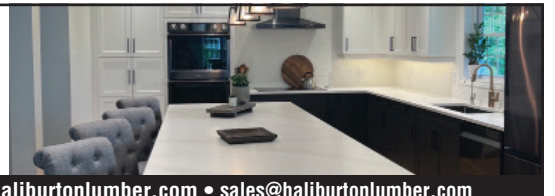
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